

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 COA-01 COME-00 EB-07

EPA-01 IO-10 NSF-01 OES-03 ACDA-05 AEC-05 AGR-05

DOT-00 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 CEA-01

OIC-02 TRSE-00 /111 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7670

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 1755

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, VE

SUBJECT: LOS: BIOGRAPHIC DATA CONCERNING VENEZUELAN DELEGATION
TO THE THIRD UN CONFERENCE ON LOS

REF: STATE 027826; CARACAS 5274

1. GOV HAS NOT YET NAMED ITS DELEGATION TO THE GENEVA LOS
CONFERENCE. AS SOON AS IT DOES SO BIO INFO CONCERNING THE VENEZUELAN
DELEGATES WILL BE CABLED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

2. SINCE A NEW VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS JUST ASSUMED OFFICE,
IT IS DIFFICULT FOR EMBASSY TO PREDICT WHO WILL COMPRISE VENEZUELAN
DELEGATION. DR. ANDRES AGUILAR HAS TOLD ME HE WILL BE ITS HEAD.
IT MAY ALSO INCLUDE DR. EMILIO FIGUEREDO,

3. DEPARTMENT'S BIOGRAPHIC DATA REPORTS ON AGUILAR, FIGUEREDO
AND LEONARDO DIAZ GONZALEZ REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE REVISION AND UP-
DATING. FOR EXAMPLE, THE REPORT ON AGUILAR SHOULD REFLECT THAT
AGUILAR CEASED BEING AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES IN MARCH
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1974. THE THIRD PARAGRAPH SHOULD BE REVISED ALONG THE FOLLOWING
LINES: "ALTHOUGH NOT A FORCEFUL AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, DURING

THE COURSE OF THE SECOND LOS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS AGUILAR, WHO WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION, WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST (SEABEDS) COMMITTEE. IN THAT KEY POSITION AGUILAR DISPLAYED COMPLETE FAMILIARITY WITH ALL ASPECTS OF THE HIGHLY COMPLEX LOS ISSUES, AND ACTED AS AN EFFECTIVE, IMPARTIAL AND ADMIRER CHAIRMAN."

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S BIOGRAPHIC REPORT ON FIGUEREDO SHOWS A PHOTOGRAPH OF NOT FIGUEREDO, BUT READ ADMIRAL MANUAL DIAZ UGUETO. FIGUEREDO IS CURRENTLY AN ATTORNEY WITH NO REGULAR OFFICIAL POSITION WITH THE VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE AND HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY ARE NOT WEALTHY. ONE OF THE BEST-INFORMED VENEZUELAN ON LOS MATTERS, FIGUEREDO IS MORE A TECHNICIAN THAN A POLICY-MAKER. GENERALLY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE U.S., HE NEVERTHELESS CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRESS HARD FOR VENEZUELA'S OWN INTERESTS IN FUTURE LOS NEGOTIATIONS, ESPECIALLY FOR COASTAL STATE CONTROL OVER OFFSHORE SEABED AND FISHERIES RESOURCES. HE OPPOSES, HOWEVER, EXPANDED CLAIMS TO TERRITORIAL SEAS. MARRIED, WITH ONE DAUGHTER. ADDRESSED AS "DR. FIGUEREDO."

5. DIAZ GONZALEZ, BORN DECEMBER 6, 1928, IS A SUAVE, INTELLIGENT AND CAPABLE CAREER DIPLOMAT. A DOCTOR OF LAWS AND ECONOMICS FROM THE SORBONNE, FROM 1951 TO 1955 HE WAS WITH UNESCO IN PARIS, AND HAS A MARKEDLY PRO-FRENCH BIAS. SECRETARY OF THE VENEZUELAN UNESCO COMMISSION 1955-57. FROM 1957 TO 1963 HE WAS SUCCESSIVELY CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND SUB-DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN JANUARY 1963 HE WAS APPOINTED MINISTER IN THE VENEZUELAN UN MISSION, AND SERVED THERE (HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24) UNTIL HE BECAME AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN ABOUT 1967. FROM NOVEMBER 1971 VENEZUELAN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN UNTIL MARCH 1973, SINCE THEN DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN 1973, WHILE AT THE UN, HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE, DURING WHICH TIME HE DISPLAYED A MARKEDLY ANTI-U.S. ATTITUDE OVER THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO. DIAZ IS ALSO REPORTEDLY ANTI-BRITISH AND ANTI-SWEDISH. A SUAVE, INTELLIGENT AND CAPABLE CAREER DIPLOMAT, HE CAN BE TEMPERMENTAL, RATIC AND EMOTIONAL. HE CAN ALSO BE QUITE ABRASIVE IF CROSSED. A WIDOWER, HE HAS A TEENAGE SON WHO RESIDES IN THE U.S. ADDRESSED AS "AMBASSADOR."

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6. COMMENT: GIVEN VENEZUELA'S INCREASINGLY INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY, IT IS LIKELY THAT IN FUTURE LOS NEGOTIATIONS VENEZUELA WILL FOLLOW A GENERALLY LESS MODERATE LINE AND WILL INCREASINGLY IDENTIFY WITH, AND CHAMPION, THIRD WORLD INTERESTS. MCCLINTOCK

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